

**EVERYONE IS INVITED**

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

**TWO TRUTHS**

We are all flawed and wounded, broken and bent.

*“For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” (Romans 3:23-24)*

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).*

We are all loved.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).*

*“But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).*

**TWO STORIES**

Being blessed by a sinful woman.

*“One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him...And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner...brought an alabaster flask of ointment ...” (Luke 7:36-37)*

The best people to invite to dinner.

*“When you give a dinner...do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors ...” (Luke 14:12)*

**TOO WONDERFUL**

*“It may be a very bad thing that I need God to die for me, but it a wonderful thing that God thinks I’m worth dying for.” (Lewis Smedes)*

Double Vision: When God looks at us he sees our warts and wickedness, but he also sees who we are intended to be and who we will one day become.

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are ... Beloved, we are God’s children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him ...”(1 John 3:1-2)*

**Prayer Concerns: Members** – Burney Biesel, Alton Creasy, J.W. Davis, Marie Davis, Donna Edwards, Leona Evans, **Dan R. Fowlkes**, **Ruth Hobday**, Gay Irvin, Irene Kiefer, Fay McDowell, Carolyn Perkins, **Jim Prince**, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – Melinda Banks, Pat Bryan, Alma Jo Churchill, Deborah Criswell, Doyle Davis, John Fumbanks, Brandon Funderburk, Gary Hinson, Judy Malaquias, Violet Stout, Mrs. W.I. Thornton, Durward Webb ...

### PASTORAL PRAYER

O God, in the body and blood of Jesus you gave us a vivid reminder of the limitless reaches of your grace and the wonder of your love. As we share in this sacrament, we ask for deliverance from all the small concerns that disrupt the universal fellowship for which you made and redeemed us. Help us to look beyond the elements of our communion to the dimensions of our commitment, beyond our ceremony to our responsibility. Let us consider the life of the One in whose memory we join around the table. Reflecting on his life, we can only thank you, Lord, for this sacrament – for its assurance of communion with you and with the world.

O Lord, we regret the absence from your table of those who have broken communion with you and with us. Let us not, in the midst of our differences, mistake our pride for purity, or our stubbornness for saintliness. Let us, instead, leave judgment to you, for you alone can separate the wheat from the chaff, the saints from the sinners.

We come to your table to be forgiven for the battles behind us and to be fortified for the battles ahead of us. Our strength will be equal to the challenge only if you bless us with your presence. Without you, there is no battle we can win; with you, there is no enemy that we cannot defeat. So we ask you, O Lord, not to take our side, but to help us take yours. This is our prayer through the one who died for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ....

**THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**LUKE 14:1, 7-14**

One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him ...

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he marked how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, “When you are invited by any one to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place.

But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

### SERMON SCHEDULE

#### In the Sanctuary:

October 14	<i>Counting the Cost</i>	Luke 14:25-33
October 21	<i>How to Get Rich</i>	Mark 10:17-31 Stewardship Season
October 28	<i>When Less Is More</i>	Mark 11:38-44 Youth Sunday

#### On the Radio (1450 AM):

October 14	<i>I Saw Satan Fall</i>	Luke 10:1-11,16-20
October 21	<i>What’s Worth Wanting</i>	Luke 12:13-21
October 28	<i>Searching for Satisfaction</i>	Luke 12:22-31

